

**Claims**

1. An electronic device (200) comprising:  
a user interface (210);  
5 a memory element (216), operably coupled to the user interface (210), which stores one or more files (217) to be represented on the user interface;  
a processor (208), operably coupled to the user interface (210) and memory element (216), wherein the  
10 processor (208) comprises a shell application (209) for representing the one or more files (217) on the user interface (210);  
the electronic device (200) characterised in that:  
the one or more files (217) is/are configured with  
15 an executable code, such that the shell application (209) runs the executable code of the one or more files (217) to provide to the user interface a representation of the one or more files (217).
- 20 2. An electronic device (200) according to Claim 1, wherein the executable code of the one or more files (217) comprises multiple respective representations of the one or more files (217).
- 25 3. An electronic device (200) according to Claim 1, wherein the shell application (209) searches the memory element (216) for the one or more files (217) containing executable code.
- 30 4. An electronic device (200) according to Claim 1, wherein the shell application (209) exports an application programming interface (211) for use by the one or more files (217).

- 16 -

5. An electronic device (200) according to Claim 4, wherein the application programming interface (211) supports a set of user interface features of the one or more files (217), for example an indication of one or more of the following: an area and/or size of a display, a number of colours to be used in a representation, a type of display to be used.
6. An electronic device (200) according to Claim 4, wherein the shell application represents the one or more files (217), dependent upon a file type and/or an additional associated file.
7. An electronic device (200) according to Claim 4, wherein the file type or additional files that can be executed comprise one or more of the following: a part or a whole of an application protocol interface bitmap, one or more sound files, an attribute or feature of a display.
8. An electronic device (200) according to Claim 1, wherein the user interface is a display, such that the shell application represents the one or more files (217) running on the electronic device as, say, an icon of the application.
9. An electronic device (200) according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic device (200) is one of: a cellular phone, a personal data assistant (PDA), a portable or mobile radio, a laptop computer or a wirelessly networked personal computer (PC).

- 17 -

10. A method of representing one or more applications on an electronic device comprising the steps of:

activating (305) a user interface, such as a display;

5 scanning (310), by a shell application, one or more directories and/or files that is/are available within the electronic device to be represented to a user; wherein the method is characterised by the steps of:

identifying (315), by the shell application, code  
10 for files and/or aspects of files that can be executed;

executing (320), by the shell application, the identified executable code; and

representing (325) the executable code on the user interface.

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11. A method of representing one or more applications on an electronic device according to Claim 10, wherein the identified executable code relates to one or more applications or items of data of the electronic device to  
20 be represented, such that the executable code of the one or more applications or items of data determines how the one or more applications or items of data are to be represented.

25 12. A storage medium storing processor-implementable instructions for controlling one or more processors in the electronic device according to Claim 1.

13. A storage medium storing processor-implementable  
30 instructions for controlling one or more processors for performing the steps of Claim 10.